

REMARKS

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicant wishes to make of record the following references under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c)(2):

References cited

- 1) U.S. Patent No. 4,738,824
- 2) U.S. Patent No. 6,017,495

Please see attached Form 1449 for a list of the publication(s). Legible copies of all publications listed are enclosed.

This Information Disclosure Statement is accompanied by a check in the amount of \$180.00 as payment of the fee specified in 37 CFR 1.17(p).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 1-24 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over US 5737499 (Bernstein et al.) in view of US 5314825 (Weyrauch et al.). Amendments to the claims are made to patentably distinguish the claims over the cited references, as discussed below.

Claim 1 has been amended to include limitations previously found in claims 9-12, which have been canceled. In particular, claim 1 requires the step of "displaying *a status overview in the form of an overview graphical depiction* indicating, for each individual processing station, predefined parameters of said reagent and status information calculated from said detected data and at least one of said parameters, wherein said processing stations are represented by corresponding symbols in said graphical depiction" (emphasis added). As acknowledged in the Office Action, Bernstein et al. fails to disclose a step of displaying parameters, detected data, and data calculated from these. Applicants acknowledge that Weyrauch et al. describes monitoring processing stations, however Weyrauch et al. merely teaches alerting or notifying an operator by providing a message on a display 31 if a container needs refilling or a working life limit is exceeded. See column 33, lines 54-57; column 48, lines 21-26. Weyrauch et al. does not describe displaying a status overview in the form of an overview graphical depiction indicating parameters and status information for each processing station, as claimed.

With specific regard to claim 24, neither reference teaches or suggests the step of automatically refilling processing stations with reagents. Weyrauch et al. describes notifying an operator (column 33, lines 54-57), but not initiating automatic refill.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration of claims 1-8 and 13-24.

Appl. No. 10/004,138
Amendment and Response to Office Action
Reply to Office Action of June 17, 2004

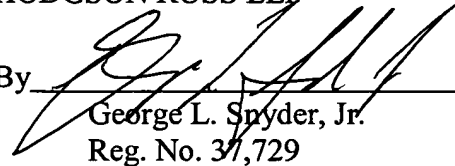
Conclusion

The present application is now thought to be in a condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions, or the attorneys for applicant can assist in any way, the undersigned attorney may be contacted at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

HODGSON RUSS LLP

By


George L. Snyder, Jr.
Reg. No. 37,729

GLS/

Enclosures: Petition for One-Month Extension of Time (in duplicate)
PTO Form 1449
Copy of U.S. Pat. No. 4738824
Copy of U.S. Pat. No. 6017495
Fee Transmittal
Check in the amount of \$110.00
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Substitute for form 1449/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet	1	of	1
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Complete if Known

Application Number	10/004,138
Filing Date	10/23/2001
First Named Inventor	Ralf Eckert et al.
Art Unit	1743
Examiner Name	Jyoti Nagpaul
Attorney Docket Number	37105.0027

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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